

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Justification and Approval

For

Other Than Full and Open Competition

1. **Contracting Activity:** Department of Veterans Affairs, VISN 22, Network Contracting Office, 4811 Airport Plaza Drive, Suite 600, Long Beach, California 90815, as directed by the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System (VAGLAHS), has a requirement for Women's Health which will require justification for other than full and open competition. The funding request number is 691-12-4-4635-0028.
2. **Nature and/or Description of the Action Being Processed:** VAGLAHS is requesting a firm fixed price service contract that requires justification for other than full and open competition.
3. **Description of Supplies/Services Required to Meet the Agency's Needs:** The Department of Health Services in the UCLA School of Public Health will consult on the Women's Health CREATE, with emphasis on the project focused on using evidence-based quality improvement methods to implement patient centered medical homes that are adapted to the needs of women veterans. In VHA, medical homes are called Patient Aligned Care Teams, or PACTs. The Department is renowned for its applied work in health care research and policy, with leading faculty and staff with recognized expertise in Patient-Centered Medical Homes (e.g., Hector Rodriguez, PhD, Gerald Komisnski, PhD, and Nadereh Pourat, PhD.). The estimated cost is \$98,000.00.

The Regents of the University of California, the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, and Department of Health Services will conduct a study that evaluates the effectiveness of women's health team effectiveness using key informant interviews.

(a) **Task One:** Consult on the development and implementation of Women's Health PACT.

(b) **Deliverable One:**

- (i) Create manuals and written guidelines for the implementation of Women's Health PACT.
- (ii) Participate in baseline assessment of barriers and facilitators to implementation
- (iii) Work with the VA based project team to engage intervention practices in evidence based quality improvement processes and initial data collection/evaluation waves.

(c) **Task Two:** Consult on the development of local Women's Health PACT Innovations in intervention practices.

(d) **Deliverable Two:**

- (i) Develop data tracking form and/or instrument(s).
- (ii) Document measures and data that may be used to evaluate and track progress in innovations.
- (iii) Design Parameters for tool kits for successful innovation projects.

(e) Task Three: Consult with project staff regarding the conduct of, and methods underlying the Women's Health PACT project.

(f) Deliverable Three:

- (i) Attend meetings and conference calls and answer e-mails in order to support the development of Women's Health PACT.
- (ii) Organize project-specific workshop on evidence-based quality improvement methods in collaboration with VA project leaders and experts.

4. Statutory Authority Permitting Other than Full and Open Competition:

- (X) (1) Only One Responsible Source and No Other Supplies or Services Will Satisfy Agency Requirements per FAR 6.302-1;
- () (2) Unusual and Compelling Urgency per FAR 6.302-2;
- () (3) Industrial Mobilization, Engineering, Developmental or Research Capability or Expert Services per FAR 6.302-3;
- () (4) International Agreement per FAR 6.302-4
- () (5) Authorized or Required by Statute FAR 6.302-5;
- () (6) National Security per FAR 6.302-6;
- () (7) Public Interest per FAR 6.302-7;

5. Demonstration that the Contractor's Unique Qualifications or Nature of the Acquisition Requires

the Use of the Authority Cited Above (applicability of authority): Researchers within the UCLA Department of Health Services already have an in-depth understanding of Women's Health research at the VA and Women's Health PACT more broadly, and will not require any additional training or orientation, saving the agency time and resources. Faculty within the UCLA Department of Health Services have worked with the VA HSR&D Center of Excellence (COE) since its inception in 1994 and have done extensive work with VA populations, are highly specialized in research in women's health, and advanced methodological issues in program evaluation, intervention design and mixed methods research of direct benefit to the agency. The faculty's links with UCLA have chiefly been through formal involvement of UCLA faculty on the Center's Advisory Board (e.g., Drs. Fred Zimmerman and Ron Anderson) and less formal teaching arrangements and collaborative relationships over time. While there may be other research entities capable of doing research work, none have the longstanding history of collaboration as well as the mix of specific skills and expertise required to support the VA Women's Health CREATE or Women's Health PACT. In particular, UCLA faculty (e.g., Rodriguez) is deeply involved in the evaluation of the current VA Assessment & Information Laboratory (VAIL), which is a PACT Demonstration Lab examining complementary issue for the general veteran population. Adapting this existing expertise to the current study is a highly efficient use of agency resources. The proximity of UCLA to the VA HSR&D Center of Excellence also affords low to no-cost in-person meetings and consultations with VA investigators, fellows and project staff. The names of the selected faculty and the areas of expertise relevant to the needs of the Women's Health CREATE and Women's Health PACT more specifically are listed below (though others may be considered over the course of the contract):

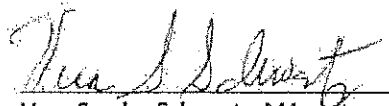
(a) Hector Rodriguez, PhD (Team effectiveness and organization of care impacts on quality plus VA PACT.)

(b) Nadereh Pourat, PhD (Racial-ethnic and other disparities in access to care of underserved populations, including access to breast and cervical cancer screening, medical home and safety net quality and outcomes.)

(c) Gerald Kominski, PhD (Evaluating the cost and cost effectiveness of health care programs and technologies improving access and health outcomes, particularly among ethnic and vulnerable populations; and developing models for estimating health expenditures and forecasting population health.)

6. **Description of Efforts Made to ensure that offers are solicited from as many potential sources as deemed practicable:** See number 5 above. A notice shall be publicized for this procurement, after supervisory approval has been obtained for this procurement method.
7. **Determination by the Contracting Officer that the Anticipated Cost to the Government will be Fair and Reasonable:** The VA Primary Care Services of Excellence retains qualitative expertise in the form of PhD-trained medical anthropologists and other experts in qualitative data collection and analysis. These experts have reviewed the estimated costs associated with the proposed project activities and determined the estimated cost to be fair and reasonable based on established professional and disciplinary norms for comparable projects conducted within and outside the VA HSR&D Center. The Contracting Officer and Contracting Officer's Representative (COR) shall take appropriate steps to monitor cost by requiring and reviewing monthly summaries of research conducted.
8. **Description of the Market Research Conducted and the Results, or a Statement of the Reasons Market Research Was Not Conducted:** Market research was conducted, examined the websites of the public health departments from California State University, Northridge at <http://www.csun.edu/hhd/hsci/mph/MPHFaculty.htm> and the University of Southern California, at <http://mph.usc.edu/faculty.php>. While both schools list faculty in their schools of Public Health, results revealed that we were unable to identify anyone whose work we were familiar with and, detailed information about their areas of expertise was not readily available. Neither website provided readily available information about the areas of expertise of their faculty.
9. **Any Other Facts Supporting the Use of Other than Full and Open Competition:** Full and open completion was not utilized for this procurement due to the reasons stated in paragraphs 4 and 5 above. The UCLA Office of Research Administration has been determined to be the sole source provider.
10. **Listing of Sources that Expressed, in Writing, an Interest in the Acquisition:** There are no other sources that expressed an interest in writing, see paragraphs 4 and 5 above.

11. A Statement of the Actions, if any, the Agency May Take to Remove or Overcome any Barriers to Competition before Making subsequent acquisitions for the supplies or services required: For future acquisitions of the services being acquired, the removal of this barrier will be to coordinate with all parties involved, end user, COR and Contractors to determine if there are other Contractors that could provide this type of service, currently there are no other providers.
12. Requirements Certification: I certify that the requirement outlined in this justification is a Bona Fide Need of the Department of Veterans Affairs and that the supporting data under my cognizance, which are included in the justification, are accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.



Vera Snyder Schwartz, MA
Assistant Director of Operations
And Finance
Center of Excellence for the Study of
Healthcare Provider Behavior
VA Greater Los Angeles Health Care System
Sepulveda campus

8/1/12
Date

13.

Approvals in accordance with FAR 6.304

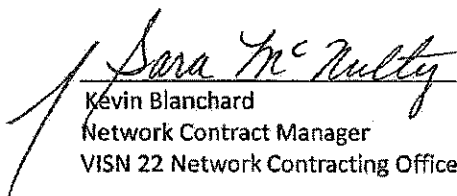
- a. Contracting Officer's Certification: (required) I certify that the foregoing justification is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.



Marie Irvin
Purchasing Agent
VISN 22 Network Contracting Offices

8-1-12
Date

- b. NCM/PCM: I certify the justification meets requirements for other than full and open competition.



Kevin Blanchard
Network Contract Manager
VISN 22 Network Contracting Offices

8-5-12
Date